

Already can be seen the outline of many that are casting their shadows before them over the political and commercial field in Europe. One can see almost the territory of Turkey distributed among the Powers that are watching with hand on sword the last moments of the "Sick Man." England, holding Egypt as a "guarantee" until some great war shall give her the chance to own the Nile Valley beyond dispute; Russia stretching westward and gazing with longing eye over the mountains and plains of Palestine and down the Euphrates Valley, waiting for the same great war to give her the wished opportunity of completing undisturbed the conquest of Asia Minor; Austria, with her southern frontier on the Balkans, which will separate her from Greece; Germany in possession of the German provinces of the present Austro-Hungarian Empire; France possibly in possession of Alsace and Lorraine again; Spain owning Morocco; Tunis absorbed in French Algiers; Holland and Belgium united under one government, or annexed to Germany and France respectively; Italy owning the Tyrol, and Constantinople, the seat of a small neutral State, controlling the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles.

With all these things are being effected America must keep pace with European progress. She will continue, from first to last, to be the commercial rival of all Europe. She must be able to sustain the rivalry and to protect the trade she creates. What she needs, therefore, is a powerful navy—a force that will patrol and police the seas, affording protection to her flag wherever it floats. She must have such a fleet as will open the Suez Canal to her commerce and protect it against the pirates of the Ocean, and the coast of Mexico. She must be prepared at short notice to sweep from the seas a hundred Alabamas that may be sent out against her merchant ships, and to punish the men who, in their want of patriotism, have given birth to the idea that in peace when her strength needs to be employed in the suppression of domestic disturbances. The people of this country are now thoroughly united under one constitution and one government. The iron-clad, the monitor, and American iron-ship, will come, and the might of 400,000,000 of people must be directed to securing for the country the right of navigating every sea and of trading with every port in the world.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

France led the way in the construction of iron-clads when she built the *Gloire* in 1850, and has undoubtedly originated several improvements. But she has not kept pace in any degree with her imitators—England—in the building of armored ships. This is partly due to her over-confidence in the first or broadside system, and the limitations of that system. While the rest of England was driven to costly experiments by which wonderful improvements were developed, France spent her money on iron-clads that were obsolete before they were launched, and she had no fleet to compete with Germany and Austria in the number of really efficient ships. France, however, has not shamed to compete with such iron-clads as the *Dreadnaught*, *Thunder*, *Devastation* or *Invincible* of the British Navy, *The Peter the Great* of the Russian, the *Ulysses* of the Italian, and the *Alma* of the Spanish. Under the Empire too much has been done in constructing a navy; but there are two ships now in course of building that will satisfy, in some respects, modern requirements. The *Admiral Graffenreid* was the first to be completed, nothing on the thickens of, and it was found more useful to employ the crews as soldiers at Parisian seaports than at Kiel. Several small unarmored vessels of the "commerce-destroyer" class were also built, and furnish models for the rest of the commerce-destroying navy of Paris.

Still the French fleet is a very formidable one, and ranks in point of numbers next to that of England. Possibly the Republic may accomplish more toward creating a real navy than the present Government, which has not yet taken up arms. France has iron-clad ships of all sizes, and this will take time and money.

FRANCE IRON-CLAD LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIPS.